The Washington Times
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CARING FOR THE CAPITAL.

THE BEAUTIFICATION OF WASHINGTON IS A NATIONAL, NOT A LOCAL, DUTY.

In the course of the movement for the continued beautifying of Washington the truth is being justly emphasized that the American people as a whole should bear their full proportion of the expense attaching to such a task.

The City of Washington is the National Capital and, as such, is subject to criticism or praise that alike must be charged or credited to the nation. The people of Washington are not held responsible in this matter. It is true that they have always borne their proportion of the cost of municipal improvement, and, as a rule, much more than their proportion, if equitably adjusted. But it is not the local community which is expected to maintain the city of Washington as a Capital City. This duty justly and properly devolves upon the American people.

The Times has taken frequent occasion to comment upon the admiration of Washington's beauty so freely expressed by foreign visitors. It should be a cause for national gratification when the Capital is thus praised. Also, as The Times has never failed to point out, this approval of foreigners should stimulate Congress and the local community to renewed exertions for the beautifying of Washington.

The people of the District are more than eager for the proper performance of such a duty, and entirely willing to contribute their just proportion of the cost. With Congress disposed to recognize the obligations of the American people in the matter, the work of making Washington beyond all question the world's most beautiful capital will be easy.

The Times is glad to commend the citizens' organizations that are now striving so strenuously to this end. It also urges Congress to deal with the question in a spirit of generous fairness toward the National Capital. Every dollar of the money of the American people expended in the improvement of the Capital City of the Union is a wise investment for the benefit of the people. The beauty of Washington is for their enjoyment, and every word in praise of such beauty is a direct tribute to the nation.

HOSPITALS FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

POPULAR PREJUDICE AGAINST THEM IS BASED NEITHER ON REASON NOR ON COMMON SENSE.

Some time ago a Chicago man found that his little daughter had diphtheria. He carried her from one hospital to another, and was refused at all. Just as he reached the health commissioner's office she died.

The incident has rightly caused a commotion in that city. There are, it appears, but two Chicago hospitals which have any accommodations for contagious diseases, and at this time both were crowded. One was the county hospital, which is always full; the other the Presbyterian Hospital, which has but ten beds, reserved for scarlet fever.

It is a mysterious and peculiar thing that but few cities or large towns in this country have any hospitals whatever for contagious diseases; and when one is contemplated there is usually such a hullaballoo from the residents of the district where it is likely to be built that the difficulties of the officials are increased ten-fold. This situation is not the result of good sense.

In the first place, the mere neighborhood of a hospital of this kind does not mean danger. There is not a case of smallpox, or scarlet fever, or diphtheria on record, proved to have been the result of such proximity. With proper care a building of this kind is as safe as a church, and much less noisy than some churches.

On the other hand, if proper accommodations are not provided for cases of contagious disease the risk of contagion is infinitely greater. For, in the first place, people cannot be sent to the hospital if there is none, and, in the second place, if the care given them by the city is not first class, their friends will conceal the presence of the disease, and it will spread. This is undoubtedly one cause of the prevalence of smallpox among the poorer classes. The prejudice against hospitals for those afflicted with this disease is so strong in some places that buildings devoted to this purpose have been destroyed.

There was an instance of such prejudice in one of the Southern States some time ago. A negro who had smallpox was taken to an isolated cabin in the middle of a field, and left there, without care, save that of the doctor who visited him daily. A mob came and burned the cabin and drove out the occupant, who crawled away through the long grass, and presumably reached the habitation of some one of his own race.

When one considers that the person who took him in might very possibly have been a laundress or servant in some family, and that she would almost certainly carry the contagion to that family and to others, the insanity of the mob's action becomes obvious. This, of course, was an extreme case, but the sooner we get rid of all panic regarding smallpox and similar ailments, and learn to treat them in a business-like way, the less danger there will be.

BACHELORS IN ARGENTINA.

While the pickle into which Venezuela's folly has plunged her is leading the press of the world to comment on the waywardness and instability of all the South American countries, it is just as well to be fair in the matter and give credit where it is found that credit is due.

The anti-bachelor law which prevails in one of the States of the Argentine Republic, for instance, is so shining an example of wise legislation that it may well be copied into the statute books of other nations. This is true for two reasons. The first is that it is universally conceded that marriage is the cornerstone of society, of law and order, of the home, of organized government. The second is that the anti-bachelor law of the Argentine Republic is admirably calculated to drive men into matrimony.

Under the provisions of this most excellent enactment, a man is held to be of marriageable age at twenty years. Between twenty and thirty all bachelors are taxed $5 per month. From thirty to thirty-five they are taxed double this amount. Between thirty-five and fifty a bachelor must pay a tax of $20 per month for the luxury of single blessedness, and if he persists in enjoying this luxury from his fiftieth to his seventy-fifth year, he must pay $30 per month. Then, from seventy-five to eighty, growing too old to be harassed much more, he pays only $20 per month, and after that the tax collector worries him no longer on the score of his bachelorhood.

But who in the world would have the endurance to withstand this continual persecution on celibacy's account from the age of twenty to eighty? Just think of it—being ding-donged at all the time—"Marry or pay up! Marry or pay up!" And the tax rate increasing steadily for fifty-five years!

The average man would go crazy under such conditions—so he chooses matrimony in preference to madness, and meekly bends his neck to the yoke. Wherein lies the wisdom of the anti-bachelor law of the Argentine Republic. It produces the desired result.

A General Staff for the Army.

By Brig. Gen. W. H. CARTER, U. S. Army.

A VERY unusual scene was enacted in the rooms of the Military Committee of the House of Representatives at the Captiol on Saturday morning last, when the Secretary of War appeared before that important committee on behalf of the army reform, commonly known as the general staff bill. Pursuant to the invitation of the Secretary of War the chiefs of bureau of the War Department were present.

In his presentation of the case the Secretary of War took as his text the conditions as they were presented during 1898, and explained fully to the committee that the proposed legislation was intended to meet the findings of the commission which investigated the war with Spain, and one of which was expressed in its report in the following language: "For many years the divided authority and responsibility in the War Department has produced friction, for which, in the interest of the service, a remedy, if possible, should be applied."

The general staff legislation is intended to benefit the country and the army as a whole, and to secure a drastic reform of the methods under which the chaos at Tampa in 1898 was possible. The secretary presented such an array of facts and arguments to the Military Committee as should ordinarily carry the conviction that notwithstanding the high character of the chiefs of bureau and of army officers in general, the success attending the war with Spain came in spite of our present system and not because of it. If the present system of independent staff bureaus is more expensive and less efficient than would be the case if the general staff were introduced to co-ordinate the work of all the bureaus and direct their action through a single and practical channel, then by all means the country should have it, and have it at the earliest possible moment.

It has been the all too prevalent practice in this country to recite the success of the civil war, and the methods that then obtained, in order to antagonize army reform. The world has moved in the past forty years, and steam and electricity have carried nations forward to a point at which those who adhere to the old and refuse the new must expect to pay the cost in blood and money whenever real war between [illegible] occurs. No one fears an occupation of America and for any protracted period by foreign powers. It is due to our nationality, however, that this country should have the best military system possible to devise, in order that it may never be subjected to the humiliation of even temporary defeat. The nation has never stood higher in the eyes of the world than since the war with Spain; yet, the conviction has prevailed continuously since 1898 among the most intelligent officers of the army that results similar to those obtained in that war could not be expected in a conflict with any other European power.

It has been recognized in the past that one of the great difficulties in effecting War Department reforms has been the fact that it is next to impossible to devise any general legislation that does not affect the personal comfort of someone already installed in office. In the consideration of so important a reform as the introduction of the general staff into the American army system, it is due to the country that personal considerations should be laid aside. In view, however, of the short period during which the present commanding general will remain upon the active list, and in deference to the suggestion that the general staff measure might displace him, the Secretary announced to the committee his desire to have the bill so modified as to become operative upon the date of retirement of the present commanding general of the army.

The whole theory of the general staff bill is that the great administrative work of the army needs to be brought into a more coherent system, under a professional soldier, who, as his chief of staff, will report results direct to the Secretary of War, after having sifted the reports of his subordinates, and of the chiefs of bureaus themselves. In this way a civilian secretary will be able, under the direction of the President, to shape the policy of the department without being subjected to the onerous task of undertaking late in life the study of all the details of military affairs, in which he can hardly become proficient before the expiration of the average term of office.

There has been much misconception of this bill, arising from the supposition that the general staff officers are to prepare the plans for war, and that the general officers will be required to carry them out. This is far from the true intention of the measure, which is that all possible information shall be acquired during time of peace, and, through a careful and systematic study of it by all the officers of the general staff corps, such information will be put in proper shape and made available. In the event of war, when a general officer is assigned to any command, his staff will report to him prepared with all the information which it has been possible to accumulate during peace. This, of course, the general must utilize according to the dictates of his own intelligence. He must decide from a professional point of view just how much or how little of each plan, and how much of the information supplied to him, he will utilize. Beyond being made acquainted with the general war policy, and plans of operations for other commanders, a general would necessarily be left to work out, with the aid of his staff, his own immediate plan of operations. Under no circumstances would his plans of battles or tactical maneuvers be interfered with, those being matters which are strictly under the charge of each general in command of troops, and for the results of which he alone is responsible.

The introduction of the general staff into the American army system, when once in proper working order, will without doubt prove a measure of the greatest economy, and add exceedingly to the efficiency of the army, strengthening in every possible way the hands of commanding generals, and assuring to the President and Secretary of War at all times a professional adviser possessed of the confidence of the commander-in-chief.

In the Public Eye.

The first important work of George Gray Bernard was done in Paris fifteen years ago, and was called "The Boy." At the time of its creation the sculptor was little more than a boy himself, and the statue was modeled in his little bedroom, under a roof through which the rain and snow came in, so that the clay in its wet wrappings sometimes had to be protected by coverings from the bed. The statue was bought by the late Alfred Corning Clark, and the youthful sculptor, with the sum of 1,500 francs as part payment securely deposited in his hat, did not dare go home that night because his quarters were too near the haunts of thieves and murderers. He slept in the studio of an American acquaintance instead.

Earl Grey, one of the intimate friends of the late Cecil Rhodes, and one of the trustees of the Rhodes will, was formerly governor of Rhodesia, and it will be remembered that he visited this country last winter. An interviewer said of him: "There is a decided difference between the Englishmen who have been in the [illegible]s and those who have not. Th[illegible] seem to be more alert, keener, a[illegible] you never have to say anything twice to them. Earl Grey is one who has been here."

When King Edward visited Andrew Carnegie, at Skibo, the [illegible] was assailed by six-year Carnegie with the dem[illegible] to the nursery and see[illegible] King laughed and went.

TILL THE LAST

When life gives up the sil
And blinds the windows
Shall I go out to some darl
Beyond oblivion?

Or will God let me stay awh
To tread old paths with
To haunt, with harmless
rooms
Where now we meet?

When death has stilled the e
And drawn his palsy over
God, leave my soul on this ol
Till the last call.
—Theodore Roberts in the Ind[illegible]

"Unconsidered Trifles."

Ancestry.

"Do you think it's such a great thing to be descended from the first families?"

"Well, no, not unless one could pick families. Some of the families had do so much unpleasant work, a-taking their claims and so on, that their ords wouldn't bear looking into. I'd er take my chances with the later rs, when ancestors are more ty."

Inappropriate Praise.

re!" exclaimed the ward politician, 's that you called the Big Chief?" , 't ain't no name, it's jollyin'. I was magnanimous."

l, whatever it means, he ain't Devery ain't nothin' he couldn't See?"

A Strenuous Ghost.

Roosevelt is the man they said ed alive in the Vice Presiden-

s some of the people that burhink judgment day has come ure."

QUAINT AND QUEER NEW[illegible]NTS.

John Briden and His Fiddle.

PERSONS who are resolute upon being happy themselves and making others as happy as is possible to them, generally find that this is a right friendly old world. John Briden was unlucky enough to be put in the calaboose in Baltimore for being drunk the other day, but he found a fiddle there, and proceeded to entertain the police justice, the sergeant, and patrolmen with some music. So good was his playing, and so sympathetic were his selections, that he won the hearts of all of his auditors, and when he was taken into the courtroom later the case against him was dismissed without costs. Thus you see that Orpheus and the Pied Piper of Hamelin have a rival in John Briden, of Baltimore, when it comes to charming souls with melody.

Folly of Talking Too Much.

MANY stories are told to illustrate the folly of a tongue that wags too freely, and the point is one which needs to be emphasized to the attention of humanity. Not long ago a neat and well-dressed girl was arrested in New York on a charge of shoplifting, and her appearance was so greatly in her favor that the police were about to release her, believing that a mistake had been made. Then she opened her mouth and spoke, saying—"I s'pose my mug will have to go into de picture book for dis." Whereupon her captors held her tightly in the iron grasp of the law, and shortly thereafter secured her com[illegible]mitment to [illegible]as that of a

Cost of Thr[illegible]

WHENE[illegible] thin[illegible] prett[illegible]selves to his m[illegible] them in a bun[illegible] that such a nu[illegible] that Mr. Ballou[illegible] while he was ab[illegible] accepting this vi[illegible] judge made him [illegible] figure beyond thi[illegible]

Hard to Kill Chi[illegible]

N[illegible]o man knows[illegible] and then it[illegible] adapt thems[illegible] twenty-two years a[illegible] the head. His wound[illegible] as usual. Within a[illegible] epilepsy and recentl[illegible] fact that all these ye[illegible] imbedded in his skull[illegible] blade having been ren[illegible] case is noted in medi[illegible] human being can endu[illegible]

"OF MAKING MANY BOOKS THERE[illegible]D."

A Peculiar Relationship.

Sara Beammont Kennedy, author of "Jocelyn Cheshire" and "The Wooing of Judith," had an amusing experience lately, as she asserts, with her great-great-granddaughter. This at first sight does not seem humanly possible, but it happened in this wise: A reader in Memphis wrote to Mrs. Kennedy that in Jocelyn Cheshire she recognized her own great-grandmother, from whom she had inherited many traits of character. Mrs. Kennedy, in her reply, stated that Jocelyn was wholly the child of her own imagination, and therefore, by all logic, she must be her reader's great-great-grandmother.

Dickens' Favorite Flower.

It is not surprising to learn that Dickens' favorite blossoms were what he called "jolly flowers"—cheery, bright-colored things of no pedigree in particular. His especial choice was the scarlet geranium, and he is said to have remarked on one occasion that he hoped if he ever went to heaven to find all the angels wearing red geraniums. It would be a peculiarly Dickensy heaven if that idea were carried out, but it might be a v[illegible] pers[illegible]

A C[illegible]

Gas[illegible] promi[illegible] mains, that t[illegible] Balzac, of mid[illegible] he supp[illegible] aggerat[illegible] whether[illegible] produce[illegible] portraits for the average [illegible]rench critic of [illegible] has found the [illegible]vels. He says [illegible]e of revenge. [illegible]elf the victim [illegible]hose virtues [illegible]vices he ex[illegible]l, however, [illegible]e ever could [illegible]llery of pen [illegible]umaine."

Statesmen and Their Ways.

The Passing of Grow.

With the expiration of the present Congress ends the distinguished career of the venerable Galusha A. Grow. It is a career of which no other man in either house can boast. It unites by a service in Congress the stirring events of the ante-bellum days with those of the present time. Galusha A. Grow was a member of Congress, shaping the issues and helping to solve the momentous questions of the fifties, when half of those who are now his colleagues in the House of Representatives were crying babes, and, indeed, before a large percentage of them were born. Allison entered Congress during the civil war, Stewart came to the Senate two months or so before Appomattox, Cullom was elected a member of the House immediately after the close of the struggle, but Galusha A. Grow occupied a seat there ten years before the Confederates fired upon Fort Sumter. He came in at the age of twenty-seven, and was the youngest member of that body succeeding David Wilmot, of Wilmot proviso fame. He remained for twelve years, and during his last term was Speaker of the House. Retiring in 1863, thirty-one years elapsed before he was again a member of the House. Wonderful changes had been wrought in that time, and the venerable ex-Speaker found among the membership of the Fifty-third Congress not one whom he had known when a member of the Thirty-second, in which he first served.

His First Speech.

His maiden speech, delivered more than fifty years ago, was upon the subject of "Man's Right to the Soil;" his farewell address, spoken but a few days ago, was on "The Rights of Capital and Labor." Remarkable, too, were his first and his last great public services. Fifty-two years ago he fathered a bill for free homesteads, and fought for it for ten years before it became a law. Last week Congress gave its sanction to his educational bill, which means the gift of millions from John Rockefeller toward the cause of learning. Now at the age of eighty years, Mr. Grow is about to retire from public life with honors heaped plentiful upon him, perhaps, not the least of which is the distinction which he enjoys of having been elected to Congress by the largest plurality ever given to any man for any office in any State. This was when he was returned to the Fifty-fifth Congress as a Representative-at-large from Pennsylvania by nearly 300,000 plurality. His four score years rest not heavily upon him, for he is still hale and hearty of body and clear, sound, and capable of mind. When the venerable statesman shall have passed into retirement there will be left none other to fill his place. Those who were with him here fifty years ago have joined the great majority, and it is probable that there does not remain alive today a single man who was in Congress when Galusha A. Grow first entered that body. Retiring, he carries with him the respect, esteem, and affection of all those who have been his associates during his second advent in the National Legislature.

Will Nominate Stanchfield.

The Hon. David Bennett Hill has decreed, and so it shall be thus, that the Hon. John B. Stanchfield shall be the caucus nominee of the Democrats at Albany to succeed the Hon. Thomas Collier Platt as United States Senator. It is passing strange that over this empty honor—this momentary flash of fame—there should be contention, but it was ever thus among the Democracy of the Empire State. It is not that there are any who envy the former candidate for governor the distinction of receiving a nomination in which there is absolutely no chance of election, but the objection comes chiefly because of the fact that Mr. Stanchfield is not a resident of Greater New York. Of the twenty-two Democrats who will represent the party in the State senate, twenty are from the metropolis, and out of the sixty-three Democratic assemblymen fifty-one have their habitat below the Bronx. From this it is argued by those who decline to subscribe to the political sagacity of the former Senator that the Democracy of New York rather than that tattered remnant of the party up-State should have the honor of naming Senator Platt's opponent. But in the giving of gifts which are valueless the Hon. David B. Hill will not be dictated to. The fact shows, if it shows anything, that what is called the Democratic organization in New York, but what is perhaps more properly the Democratic disorganization, is under the absolute control of Hill. There is on the one hand the brute strength of superior numbers and on the other the subtle cunning of one man, and the latter has his way and his sway.

Want a New Yorker.

There is talk—but talk is so abundant in New York as to be absolutely without market value—of the members from the metropolis rising in their strength, asserting themselves, and naming their own caucus nominee for the Senate, not because of any unkind feeling toward Mr. Stanchfield, but to rebuke Hill and discredit his leadership. Then, while this conversation is indulged in there appears the man with the balm of harmony, who would heal all political wounds by its application, and he advises against such a course. It would be disrespectful to Mr. Stanchfield. The game would not be worth the ammunition used to bring it down. There are better and more approved methods of "getting back" at Hill and of lifting him over the breastworks and depositing him upon the exterior. These will be tried when the proper time comes. For the present it will profit nothing to refuse to allow Hill to name the man who shall receive the vote of the Democratic members of the Legislature at Albany next month. Accordingly, Mr. Stanchfield will be the nominee, but it will not be necessary for him to hasten on to Washington to select a residence—the Hon. Thomas C. Platt has arranged to relieve him of any such trouble.

A Virginia Combination.

The Martin and Willard Company, Limited, may be selected as the style of the new political combination said to have been recently formed in Virginia, the announcement of which formation has startled the good people of the Old Dominion almost beyond expression. The partners in the new concern are none other than the Hon. Thomas S. Martin, United States Senator, and ex-captain, now lieutenant governor, Joseph E. Willard, and their business is to be confined exclusively to dealings in Senatorial and gubernatorial booms. It is but little more than a year since the debonair young statesman from Fairfax Court House was using his utmost endeavors to cripple the workings of the so-called Martin machine, and succeeded so well that the Hon. Claude A. Swanson was enabled to remain in Washington as a member of Congress instead of being obliged to take up his residence in the executive mansion in Richmond. Of course, Mr. Willard was too modest to ever have claimed the credit for having placed the Hon. Andrew Jackson Montague in the governor's chair, but there are those who assert that he contributed materially, or if not materially then financially, something which he is capable of doing. Thereby Mr. Willard came to be the presiding officer of the Virginia senate. Now, so it is reported, after one short year in harness, Governor Montague and Lieutenant Governor Willard have become estranged—that is, to the extent of declining to share each other's confidence politically.

Willard's Ambition.

It is revealing no secret to state that the Hon. Joseph E. Willard is an ambitious young man and aspires to become governor of Virginia. He is possessed of an abundance of this world's goods, far beyond the well-to-do; in fact, he is a millionaire, but the voters of old Virginia do not take kindly to the use of money to further political ambitions, and the Hon. Joseph E. Willard would be the last man in the State to seek to change their feelings upon this matter by the use of his fortune. Therefore Mr. Willard appreciates the need of a political godfather to stand sponsor for him, and who in all the State, from Alexandria to Bristol, is better qualified to undertake the management of a young man with a fortune and a gubernatorial ambition than the Hon. Thomas S. Martin, who in turn for his trouble is to receive the support of Governor Willard to enable him to remain in the Senate? This is something, in view of the fact that Governor Montague is not simply leering toward the Senatorship, but has turned his full gaze upon the seat now held by Senator Martin.

THINKS SOCIALISM THE REMEDY.

To the Editor of The Times:

Sir: At this time of dire distress in thousands of families throughout the country due to lack of fuel supply, is not the time particularly opportune to name the remedy whereby the people may have access to the anthracite stored in abundance in the rich fields of Pennsylvania?

We are all familiar with the miseries attendant upon the great strike a few weeks back, and equally conversant with the appalling situation today. So let us, as intelligent human beings, cast aside subterfuges, and sift the thing to its cause. The mines are owned privately by individuals, or by sets of individuals, termed corporations. This admitted, it is evident coal is not mined unless at the option of the owners. Now what incentive prompts the exercise of this prerogative by the owners to have the coal mined? For their individual use? Not at all. That outlay would be too enormous. For they have to expend considerable capital before the necessary machinery is installed to mine coal, and other means of combustion would supplant coal, were this the case.

But why do millions of intelligent men and women allow a few men to control in its entirely a great necessity? We all must have access to, in order to live in comfort. The solution is simple—public ownership of the mines by the people, and for all of the people, all of the time. Socialism, in other words, would insure our keeping warm in winter time, and not make us the sufferers because of a difference arising between employer and employe. And from the surprising gains of the Socialist party of America in the November elections, it is evident that the fuel problem is nearing solution. I am very truly yours,

JOSEPH WOOD.

Washington, Dec. 12, 1902.

GOT ON HIS NERVES.

Some funny things happen in the Senate Chamber, for all its dignity, and the following incident, related in the "Philadelphia Press," furnishes an illustration of the fact:

A new steam-heating apparatus has been installed in the Senate and a big pipe over the ceiling has a way of giving out a sharp, cracking noise at intervals.

A Senator who had attended a banquet the night before and was a little irritable went to Col. Dan Ransdell, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and said:

"See, here, colonel, if you don't get a new steam pipe up there, I will have to get a new set of 'morning after' nerves."

LOST AND FOUND HER TASTE.

In a recent issue the following interesting story of the odd developments caused by a fall from a bicycle is told in the "New York World" as having happened at Syracuse:

Miss Minnie L. Overacre in September had a fall from her bicycle. She soon recovered her faculties except that she could not taste food. She today recovered her sense of taste as suddenly as she lost it, and it is as good as ever. Her physician says that when she fell from the wheel there was formed a clot of blood which pressed upon the brain so that the sense of taste was destroyed. This clot became absorbed gradually, and this allowed the brain to perform its natural functions.